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A DECLARATION OF SPIRITUAL INDEPENDENCE

What Is, and What Is Not, New Thought

BY

HENRY HARRISON BROWN

Editor of "Now"

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A Declaration of Spiritual Independence!

What Is, and What Is Not, New Thought

There are many cults, schools and gatherings under the name "New Thought." These are constantly increasing. Each new and successful movement ever has attached to it those who take its name for gain. In like manner there are those who, like barnacles upon a battleship, attach themselves to this movement. Incapable of living an independent life, they must live as parasites.

This is a natural result. That which cannot be defined is always thus infested; that which is not limited will always be an open net; that which cannot be organized must depend upon the natural elimination of error. Such is New Thought. When defined it is limited and ceases to be new!

In all transition periods the steps are, of necessity, vague and heterogenious. In the evolution of the species the "missing links" are the intermediate ones between the new and those that survive as the old. So is it in this greatest of all movements toward Practical Ideal-

ism! Toward making society that which was foreseen in the Declaration of Independence when it said "All men are created equal and endowed by their creator with" . . . "the inalienable right to life!" In this period of transition all varieties of mixed truth and error come because there is a demand for these stepping-stones. This great ship, NEW THOUGHT, can carry all the marine and submarine parasites, and withstand all the attacks these may make upon it. Truth will not be in the least hindered by error.

Now that astrologists, phrenologists, fasters, vegetarians, health-foodists, regenerationists, reincarnationists, mystics, and new-version of Bible-ites, fakers and unnamed cults have attached themselves to the movement and named themselves NEW THOUGHT, the editor of NOW feels that it is best that he placed the magazine in its opinions, teachings, and principles squarely before the public, and that he state what to NOW *is* and what is *not* New Thought. NOW *is a Journal of Affirmation.* It teaches a present heaven. Its philosophy is based upon the Affirmation—MAN IS SPIRIT HERE AND NOW WITH ALL THE POSSIBILITIES OF DIVINITY WITHIN HIM! HE CAN CONSCIOUSLY MANIFEST THESE POSSIBILITIES HERE AND NOW!

In a short statement—THE HUMAN

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SPIRIT IS DIVINE AND I TRUST IT! Or this shorter statement includes it all—I TRUST MYSELF! In NOW's philosophy nothing can be New Thought that is not in harmony with this statement. Nothing that limits man, nothing that limits his possibilities can to NOW be New Thought.

There may be ten thousand ways in which this Principle is applied; there are innumerable ways in which it may be applied; there are an infinite number of ways of living it consciously, and they will all be New Thought, because they all arise in the one thought, i. e., *The present divinity of the human soul.*

Whenever any teacher, book, or movement comes forth, placing any limitation upon the possibilities of man; whenever any person places "Can't" upon human power, by advocating a necessity in any particular belief, book, method, rule, rite, regulation or person, then in the NOW definition that is NOT New Thought. It is the Old Thought in a new guise. The old thought was limitation. Man was subject to limitation and Law. In the New he is limitless and is the Law, above the Law.

It has been the custom from time immemorial for some man, or body of men to regulate the conduct of themselves and others. This tyranny is old and grey with centuries. Its name has been patriarch, chief, priest, king, government, church, or book. Today it is

"Founder," "Leader," "Mother"! Plenty of new names are waiting for the ambitious and crafty.

It was once "Religion," now it is Rule, Regulation, Method, Interpretation. As in all the past its shibboleth is the same. It is "Thou Shalt Not!" Its tenets have always been prefaced by "Thus saith," be it by Lord, man, book or teacher.

The old was based upon some form of Authority and was thus a tyranny. Any form of thought that lays any emphasis upon authority is not New Thought but the old, masquerading under the name of New. The ass in the lion's skin, and here are the same old ears.

To NOW-thought all limitations are error.

If I am to believe that stars control me then I am a slave to stars. If the shape of the head cannot be changed by me, when I will, then I am controlled by my head, and am a slave of fate. If I am to eschew any food, then I am limited and still a slave. NOW will have none of these. I am not "guided by spirits." I am not "controlled by Karma." If so, I am not limitless in possibility. Some Power external to me is my master. Says Walt Whitman: "Nothing external to me has any power over me!"

I have faith in the God who has but one throne, which is MY SOUL. I have faith in but one Master—My WILL. I have faith in but One Law—My Choice.

I have faith in but one Guide—My Desire. ALL GOD CENTERS IN ME AND FOR ME. I HAVE NO GOD-POWER FOR ANY ONE ELSE. I have no right to interfere, save in Love and Good Thoughts with another soul! Emerson's statement I hold as basic—"There is but One Mind common to all individual men. Each individual is an inlet to the same and TO ALL THE SAME. He who is once admitted to the right of *reason* is made A FREEMAN OF THE WHOLE ESTATE!" Each man is a Freeman by Nature, and by the fundamental law of the land.

All who have faith in Soul—in the One Mind—are emancipated from all limitations, save such as he places upon himself, by *choice*, or by weakly submission. All who take Truth and Love as infinite Principles are emancipated. Because they ARE these Principles they are limitless in power to be and to do as they will to be and to do. Out of this One Mind which finds Its expression through each human intellect as an inlet for Itself, comes Truth for that individual and for him alone. Never truth through one for another. Thus New Thought rests upon the Divinity and Freedom of each human Soul. It has no authority save that which comes as Truth to each individual.

We hold that each person is adequate to care for himself when he so wills, and expresses faith in himself. He will suf-

fer any, or all, possible ills of life until he does so exercise faith.

Each moment the Truth needed is present. "Take or leave it!" is nature's order.

Thus we refuse to be limited in our thinking; refuse to receive any orders from outside. We leave behind all belief in the supremacy of matter or of environment over the Soul. We have no allegiance to the old thought of the control by circumstances. *I am a Centerstance and may, if I will, control circumstance.*

We bow to no appearance and yield to no less vibration than to those which come from within, outward; come from the Soul. The thought "I AM DIVINE!" will not allow him, who so affirms, to degrade his divinity to a fast, an isolation, a rule, a food, a habit, or a fear.

"I and my Father are one!" "What my Father is I am." "I fear no evil for THOU art with me!" We take this as real, as is the fact that two times two are four.

This is New Thought as NOW teaches it. New Thought is *living* the old principles as taught by all religious systems, and by all philosophies. Mind I say—LIVING—not believing! not holding them merely intellectually, but Living them, as we live the fact of sun and cloud. They are Realities. Heaven, mystery, truth, love, now are. Live

them *now*. "Many are called but few chosen!"

The New Thought is not the old revamped. It is made wholly out of new conceptions of Life and Nature; of God and Man; as ONE.

It is the realization of liberty. It is the newly awakened perception that each individual is indeed a "Child of God" now. "Beloved, *now* are we sons of God!" Let us so live *now*.

It has taken two thousand years to bring this Truth into the practical realization of the race and lead men to live as Divine beings. They who so live are free from the limitations of the flesh. "Thou wilt not suffer thine Holy one to see corruption!" said a prophet of old as he realized that disease could not be true of soul; that the One Mind, as Man, need not be sick, when he lived within the thought of his divinity.

New Thought is Man's acceptance of his divine inheritance as Reality here and now. He will not wait for death and the Hereafter. All is Eternity NOW! All heaven is Here!

Faith in Soul will not allow us to attempt to re-live the past—nor will we attempt to ante-date the experiences of tomorrow. All our affection and thought is concentrated in the present. "NOW is the accepted time." Is the only time. An Eternal NOW is mine! Babes in faith are they who pray for help from outside themselves. Babes

are they who do not realize that this One Mind IS *now* my Shepherd and is *now* leading me by still waters and into green pastures. I have but to open my eyes and see. I have but to accept the blessings here and now! Before I ask they are here as mine. Babes still more ignorant are they who tell me what to eat, wear, how to sleep and how to express my love or thought or passion. Infants they who think they MUST do anything. Matured are they who *choose* what to do, and never realize a "Have to!"

New Thought recognizes no claim to any patent-right in any statement of Truth. All any statement, made for another can do is to act as an inspiration, to awaken an expression for the same perfection in him. Truth is not created; it is perceived. Each person is in his divine reality the all of Truth. Truth is perceived by the Soul and expressed. I am my brother's keeper in so far as that what I perceive I express, that he seeing my good works may in like manner glorify Truth, in his life and expression. By the accumulation of these perceptions and expressions, God—which is Truth—finds expression and the race advances in its knowledge of itself. Each generation may avoid the errors of the past. If previous generations had not suffered the tyranny of authority we would have to suffer it today. We learn our ability to enjoy and to

suffer; to submit and to conquer; to pine in disease or rejoice in health; because others have experienced, and we enter into the developed consciousness of the race. Thus we realize that ALL IS GOOD! That the One Mind is constantly "from seeming evil still educing good in infinite progression!" "Still bringing the good out of evil, the garland of peace on the hearse!"

There is but one road to the unfoldment of infinite possibilities into life, and that is by gradual evolution. The rose is spoiled by picking open the bud. When any means is offered by any teacher by which one may quickly realize Truth reply to such "Heaven is not reached by a single bound!" All any one can do for another is to inspire him to do for himself. We know that all help comes from within; from above the present consciousness of the individual. All healing under the New Thought name is done by the same Power that built the body before birth, and has grown it to the present. Once the individual man, the thinking man, has come into harmony with the Spiritual man, the real Man, the man who is the Inlet of the One Mind, then the body is healed. Learn to keep in this harmony and health is a constant reality.

When one comes into consciousness of himself as DIVINE Possibility there will be no *must* in his thought. He will live constantly under the freedom of his

choice, and will do what he loves, and will love what he does. In love is perfect freedom. Love fulfills every law of Mind. Love is the Mind's one law. Living in love, doing in love and loving what you are, is freedom. The last emancipation then is yours. You will unconsciously, at all times, affirm — I AM SPIRIT! I AM DIVINE! I CAN, BECAUSE I AM LIMITLESS IN POSSIBILITY!

From this moment you will remove from your library all books that would place a limit on your thought, will have no longer use for methods! Will class as erroneous all teachings that would make you less than Infinite in that Reality which you are, and which you are daily bringing more and more into expression as Life—as your Conscious Personality.

In this consciousness of your divinity, you will leave behind all details, and will live in Principles, which are eternal. Will forget Time and will live in the present Eternity.

Will leave all the crutches of limitations for those so weak in thought that they do not stand alone. You will walk upright without staves. Love and Truth alone your Authority! The Judge of these is seated upon the One Eternal Throne—the One Mind's expression as your-SELF.

This is New Thought as NOW teaches. It is nothing less than Spiritual liberty.

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It is the only Twentieth Century interpretation of this prayer which is universal in Christendom. It is well for New Thought people to see that this Prayer is made an instrument of a Truth which, we believe, is the same vision Jesus held. That it is NOT the horrible vision the mediaeval theologians read into it. Let us scatter the Master's thought where we can. I have written that the spirit of Jesus might find expression in the words so revered and so made sacred by hallowed lips. I have added a "SILENT HOUR!" to the essays, consisting of beautiful prayers and extracts through which every person can [illegible]ress the aspirations and desires of [illegible]oul.

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